(c) the steps being taken by Government to produce more oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Details of crude oil imported and foreign exchange spent thereon from various countries during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:

	(MMT)	US $(BILLION)
2004-05	95.861	12.66
2005-06 (April-Dec.)	72.306	27.45

(c) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

(i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP;

(ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. In particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;

(iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;

(iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas; and

(v) acquiring equity oil and gas from abroad.

Usage of ethanol-blended petrol

1583. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of running automobiles on ethanol-doped petrol;

(b) what are its consequences;

(c) whether this petrol has been proved economic; and

(d) the complete findings of use of ethanol-doped petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Based on the success of the Pilot projects on blending 5% ethanol in petrol in the year 2001, Government implemented the 5% Ethanol-Blended Petrol programme (EBP) in notified sugar producing states and adjoining union territories *w.e.f.* 1.1.2003 But despite the mandatory requirement, the programme could be implemented only fitfully and in a staggered manner because ethanol was not made available in a consistent manner and at reasonable prices. Therefore, a fresh Gazette Notification, No. GSR705(E) was issued on 27.10.2004 as per which 5% ethanol-blended petrol shall be sold in notified States and Union Territories if the price of sourcing indigenous ethanol for supply of ethanol-blended petrol is comparable to the price of indigenous ethanol for alternative uses and the delivery price of ethanol at the location is comparable to the import parity price of petrol at that location and the indigenous ethanol industry is able to maintain the availability of ethanol for ethanol-blended petrol at such prices. In terms of the said notification dated October 27, 2004, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) have invited tenders for purchase of ethanol. Till now, Public Sector Oil Companies have finalised the contracts for purchase of one year requirement of ethanol for Uttar Pradesh approx. 73 TKL, for Punjab approx. 35 TKL, for Tamil Nadu (only 9 districts) approx 19 TKL, for 8 Industry locations in Andhra Pradesh (except 2 districts) approx 41 TKL and for Karnataka approx 42 TKL.

Consumption of petrol goes down to the extent of use of ethanol in petrol Emission studies indicated that there was reduction in Carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from two-wheelers with the use of 5% ethanol blends but with a marginal increase in hydrocarbon (HC) emissions Two-wheelers fitted with catalytic converters shows substantial reduction in both carbonmonoxide and hydrocarbon emissions. In the case of passenger cars, a marginal increase in Nitrogen Oxide (NO) emissions was observed. However, there is substantial reduction in CO and HC emissions.